



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VETERANS TRAINING SUMMIT

HON-DAH RESORT CONFERENCE CENTER

PINETOP, ARIZONA

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2017



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of Tribal Government Relations
810 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 915
Washington, D.C. 20420



Veterans Training Summit Objectives

The goal of this Summit is to invite Tribal leadership, Tribal Veterans, and Tribal Program Directors as well as representatives from the VA Administrations to collaborate, educate, network, and build relationships to better serve Veterans and their families. This meeting also will serve as an education session on VA benefits and services.

Mission of the Office of Tribal Government Relations

The VA OTGR consults with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments to develop partnerships that enhance access to services and benefits by Veterans and their families.

Vision of the Office of Tribal Government Relations

The VA has positive relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and is part of the landscape of Indian Country. Every Veteran receives excellent services that are holistic in nature and that lead to optimal health. American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments view the VA as an organization of integrity that advocates for their needs. The VA demonstrates its commitment to Veterans by being culturally competent, respecting the unique sovereign status of Tribes, and reaching Veterans in Indian Country. Veterans know how to access all VA services and benefits and are woven into the fabric of the VA.

Objectives of the Office of Tribal Government Relations

1. Increase Veterans access to health care and benefits
 - i. Support participation in the Tribal HUD-VASH Program
 - ii. Support participation in the National Cemetery Administration Tribal Cemetery Grant Program

2. Economic Sustainability
 - i. Increase utilization of Native American Direct Loan Program
 - ii. Increase utilization of Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - iii. Increase utilization of Vocational Rehabilitation Program
 - iv. Increase access to Compensation and Pension
 - v. Increase access to federal employment opportunities
 - vi. Facilitate greater involvement by Tribes and Native American Veterans in small business development and federal contracting opportunities

3. Tribal Consultation





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Wednesday, Sept 13, 2017

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Open
8:15 am – 8:40 am	Opening Ceremonies: Welcome: Emcee, Geno DeClay, Veteran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Colors; American Legion Post 60 • National Anthem; Donita Machuse, Miss White Mountain Apache Tribe
8:40 am – 8:45 am	Opening Prayer: Slim Quay, Chaplain
8:45 am – 9:05 am	Honor Song: Cibecue Drum Group – Jarrod Dale (spelling of name?)
9:05 am – 10:00 am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronnie Lupe, Chairman, White Mountain Apache Tribe • Stephanie Birdwell, Director, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations • Kasey B. Velasquez, Vice-Chairman, White Mountain Apache Tribe
10:00 am – 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 am – 10:45 am	VHA Health Care Benefits – Phoenix VA Health Care System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility and Enrollment, ?, Chief Customer Relations • Beneficiary Travel, ?, Mobility Transportation Specialist
10:45 am – 11:30 am	VBA eBenefits / Benefits Overview; Vesta Burkett, Veterans Service Representative, Phoenix VA Regional Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting Benefits Claims and Appeals • What are service-connected Veterans? • What are non-service-connected pension benefits
11:30 am - Noon	Service Officers and Claims Agents; Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations; R. Scott Fincher, AZ Department of Veterans Services
Noon – 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Services from Arizona Department of Veterans Services, R. Scott Fincher, Division Training Officer, Arizona Department of Veterans Services
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	BREAK
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	US Small Business Administration Veteran and Native-Owned Business, James H. Pipper, Veteran Services Officer, Assistant Director, US SBA; Billie S. Anderson, US SBA
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	USDA Rural Development: Housing, Business, Community, and Utility Programs, Don Irby, USDA Rural Development Coordinator
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	VBA Native American Direct Loan Program; Jayson Bernal, Loan Specialist, Phoenix VA Regional Office
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Wrap Up
5:00 pm	CLOSE DAY 1





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TIME	TOPIC
7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open
7:30 am – 8:15 am	Registration / Breakfast
8:15 am – 8:30 am	Welcome Day 2: Emcee, Romeo Dazan, Veteran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Speakers
8:30 am – 9:15 am	VBA Special Adapted Housing and VHA Special Home Adaptation
9:15 am – 10:00 am	National Museum of the American Indian and the Native American Veterans Memorial; Betsy Gordon, Project Manager, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Martin Earring, Cultural Information Specialist, NMAI
10:00 am – 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 am – 11:00 am	VHA Caregiver Support, ?, Phoenix VA Health Care System
10:45 am – 11:45 am	VHA Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, ?, Phoenix VA Health Care System
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	VHA Women Veterans Health, ?, Phoenix VA Health Care System
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	BREAK
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	VA National Cemetery Administration Programs and Services, ?, NCA
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	O’odham Veterans Celebration Programs and Services, E. Pacer Reina, Chairman, O’odham Veterans Celebration; Dennis Faden, Vice-Chairman
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Retrieval of Colors; American Legion Post 60
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Closing Prayer; Slim Quay, Chaplain
4:00 pm	CLOSE DAY 2 – Wrap Up / Safe Travels
4:00 pm	Military Surplus Distribution

